

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
January 14, 2013**

Members

Present:	Glorianne Robbi Dick Ginman Kat Cannelongo Fred Gardner Pat Cregar Joan Sank	Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member and Historic Preservation Liaison Committee Member and Planning Board Liaison Township Committee- Mayors Designee Alternate 2
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Members

Absent: none

Position

Vacant: Alternate 1

Liaisons

Present: Toni Robbi Environmental Commission

Others:

Christine Rosikiewicz David Wang-Iverson Frances Gavigan Gail Glashoff Erica Johanson Peter Fick	Secretary Township Committee Member Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee Vice Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee Recycling Committee Member Member of the public
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Absent: Judy Conard Administrator

IN COMPLIANCE WITH the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is the re-organization meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 20, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On January 9, 2013 notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk's Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the agenda was posted on the bulletin board.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: Christine Rosikiewicz chaired the re-organization meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Election of Chair: Dick Ginman moved to nominate Glorianne Robbi for Chair, second by Pat Cregar. No further nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

Glorianne Robbi chaired the rest of the re-organization meeting as follows:

Election of Vice Chair: Fred Gardner moved to nominate Dick Ginman for Vice-Chair, second by Kat Cannelongo. No further nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve regular meeting date: A motion was made by Fred Gardner to keep the regular meeting date as the second Monday of each month in 2013; second by Dick Ginman. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Hunterdon County Democrat as place for publication of legal notices for 2013: A motion was made by Dick Ginman to approve Hunterdon County Democrat for publication of legal notices for 2013, second by Fred Gardner. Motion carried unanimously.

Review ordinance governing function of FOSPC: Chapter 26-Ordinance establishing the committee.

Ms. Robbi explained that the Committee was formed by ordinance in 2003.

Review committee membership and liaison committee members.

There are five members; Pat Cregar serves as the Mayor's designee and the other four members are members of the public who should hold no elected office in the Township. Those four members are Kat Cannelongo, Dick Ginman, Glorianne Robbi and Fred Gardner. There are two alternate positions that also cannot hold an elected office in the Township; Joan Sank is an alternate and the other slot is vacant. There are liaisons to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (vacant), Planning Board (Fred Gardner), Recreation Committee (vacant), Environmental Commission (Toni Robbi), and Historic Preservation (Kat Cannelongo). No remuneration is received.

Ms. Robbi explained that the meetings are public; on occasion the meetings are closed if there are negotiations that involve financial discussion. The agenda is posted and meeting minutes are available. FOSPC on an annual basis reviews recommendations for the Township's open space, farmland and historic preservation program as set forth in the code. FOSPC advises the Township Committee of the financial needs of the various preservation plans and the use of the municipal Open Space Trust Fund. Each farmland preservation and open space project is brought to the Township Committee. FOSPC, on behalf of the Township, seeks opportunities for the preservation of open space and farmland. Funding is researched from both government and private sources. D&R Greenway, Hunterdon Land Trust, and New Jersey Conservation are non-profit land trusts that assist with funding.

FOSPC informs and educates Township residents; this is done primary through the annual newsletter in July which includes a map of open space and preserved land in the Township and a review of the previous year. Two forums have been held in the past. The first forum was on farmland preservation and resulted in two residents who attended subsequently preserving their farms.

FOSPC maintains an inventory of preserved lands and conservation easements in the Township and works with Hunterdon Land trust and D&R Greenways to monitor compliance of easement restrictions. It was noted by Mr. Robbi that easements owned by the Township are monitored by the Environmental Commission.

With regard to administrative duties Judy Conard performs most of these duties.

Mr. Ginman mentioned that FOSPC also looks for open space for recreation.

The regular meeting commenced at this time.

Ms. Robbi asked to go ahead to “Unfinished Business” to discuss the proposed GreenFest at this time.

Ms. Robbi reported that two farms were preserved in 2012; one of 64 acres and the other 61 acres. The 61 acre property is directly across the street from East Amwell School and is next to preserved farmland. Three open space pieces closed last year. On Rocktown Rd. 23 acres were preserved which is adjacent to the 63 acre Omick property in the Sourland district. The Polhemus properties closed in December. These are two 5 acres parcels in the Sourlands that connect with Cattail Brook and D&R land to form a total of 127 preserved acres. This property borders preserved property in Somerset County. The third property closed in December and is ten acres which fronts Mountain Road and Rocktown Road across from 22 acres of preserved land.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The meeting was opened to the public. There were no comments from any public. **Mr. Gardner made a motion to close to the public; Ms. Cregar seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

GreenFest proposal:

Copies of the GreenFest proposal to be held on Saturday, March 16, were provided to all Committee members in their packets. Ms. Johanson commented favorably about it. Ms. Robbi explained the purpose is to introduce residents to farmland preservation. Mr. Ginman suggested the farm community and the Agricultural Advisory Committee be highlighted. Mr. Wang-Iverson suggested a tour of a preserved farm. Ms. Gavigan suggested visiting the wineries. Ms. Robbi said she will provide a schedule for hikes and sign-up sheets. Mr. Gardner noted that D&R would like people to make use of northern Stonybrook. Ms. Sank suggested photographs be used; Mr. Robbi said slideshows could be run on computers. Literature and trail maps can be provided. Suggested groups to invite include Scouts, sports leagues, and other non profits. F. Gavigan will provide pictures and a video of preserved farms. Tours could be provided in the afternoon if weather permits. F. Gavigan will provide information for the next VIP. Ms. Johanson can hand out fliers at the next recycling depot. A flier will be sent through the school.

MINUTES OF MEETING held December 10, 2012:

A motion was made by Mr. Gardner to approve the minutes, second by Ms.

Cannelongo. Mr. Ginman requested the first sentence on page four in the third paragraph under “Old Business” be deleted. **All were in favor; motion carried.**

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

A motion made by Mr. Gardner to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by Mr. Ginman. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Mr. Ginman reported that the grant application for a trail on the Omick property was denied. The state received applications with a total request of \$3.3 million dollars but the total grant money available was \$600,000. Mr. Robbi suggested an application be made for the other trail as supplies may be needed to build steps.

OLD BUSINESS:

Continued discussion to enlarge Agricultural District to include additional farms. Preliminary discussion held at December meeting.

Mr. Ginman reported that the targeted farm list was updated; it was decided to look at a different tier of farms at the north slope of the Sourlands. These farms can be on the targeted farms list as the ADA follows the line up to the Sourlands. Mr. Gardner said he could submit a proposal to expand the ADA if necessary. Ms. Robbi will follow up with the County regarding the location of the ADA; she reported that the Federal Ranchland and Farm Grant application deadline is January 31st.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report of walk taken on Polhemus and Wiedemer properties

Ms. Robbi toured both the Polhemus and Wiedemer properties. She reported that there are four foot stakes on the Polhemus property which are easy to see.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **Historic Preservation:** Kat Cannelongo reported Barbara Sageser (Historic Preservation Committee Chair) received a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) granting permission to work on the Clawson House.
- **Planning Board:** Fred Gardner reported that Don Reilly was appointed Chair. A list of Planning Board priorities was approved including the ten year re-exam of the Master Plan which will probably include design standards in the AVAD. Creation of a Historic Preservation Ordinance is planned.
- **Environmental Commission:** Mr. Robbi reported that there has not been an Environmental Commission meeting since the last FOSPC meeting; the reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 28th.
- **Recreation Committee:** Ms. Rosikiewicz reported that there are now four members on the Recreation Committee; membership may be lowered from seven to five at the February 14th Township Committee meeting. The Recreation Committee will have their reorganization meeting in later February or early March (Secretary note: the

meeting will be on February 21st). Ms. Rosikiewicz will advise the Recreation Committee about the GreenFest. Mr. Ginman reported that Thyra Zengel, Alan George and John Quirke attended the December meeting of the County Parks Board where the Board suggested they would be open to the sports group taking responsibility for the County Parkland across from the fairgrounds. This property is approximately two hundred acres. It is sixty percent woods; the rest of the property is fairly flat and could accommodate several ball fields. The County does not want to manage the property; the sports groups would manage it. The County will grade the fields and possibly construct a parking area but will not do any maintenance on or supervise use of the property. Mr. Ginman advised that the next step is to form an organization to meet the management requirements for the property. Ms. Robbi stressed the importance of interest from other municipalities. It was noted that municipalities could request open space funds from the County for this project. It was suggested this project possibly be picked up by the Recreation Committee; Ms. Rosikiewicz will put it on the Recreation Committee agenda.

REPORTS:

There were no reports.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no comments on any correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CADB Meeting on February 14, 2013.
- SADC Meeting on January 24, 2013. Ms. Robbi reported that the SADC is reviewing draft rules for wind power. She attended the December meeting; the draft was not available to the public.

Mr. Ginman inquired about the appraisal received. **Mr. Gardner made a motion to send relevant appraisals to the County if necessary. Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2013.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Gardner made a motion to open to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed. No members of the public were present. **Mr. Gardner made a motion to close to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary